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Zechariah. In the introductory material the excellent little sketch of the Persian history of the period is deserving of mention as a feature of special usefulness.

The book is in two parts: Haggai and Zechariah in one, and Malachi the other. By this arrangement Malachi is assured a tolerable measure of prominence, but Haggai suffers to the advantage of Zechariah: his introduction is very scanty; the disproportion is even greater than the relatively greater bulk and significance of the material in Zechariah warrants. The contention for the early date of Zech., chaps. 9-14, that it was, indeed, written by a disciple and possibly a younger contemporary of Zechariah, is worked out with care and argued with considerable force, yet one completes the discussion with a feeling that it falls short of conviction. Typographical errors occur, as, for example, *hōrah* given as the Hebrew root of Torah (p. 15), and I. M. P. as the initials of the author on "Malachi" (p. lvii) in the *International Critical Commentary*.

#### Religious Education and American Democracy.

By Walter S. Athearn. Boston: Pilgrim Press, 1917. Pp. xiii+394. \$1.50.

Democracy depends on the enlightenment of the people, but it depends not less on their spirit and ideals; for the former we have our public schools and our colleges, while for the latter we have made no general social provision. Religious training, absolutely necessary in a democracy, has as yet no adequate institutional life. This need Professor Athearn surveys; he proposes to meet it by the development of community effort and by the correlation of the many agencies already in the field. The book rises out of practical and valuable service and will aid others in working out their problems in their own communities. The community council is the author's special contribution. It deserves most careful study, for it is rich in promise. But he treats here also the work of the college in teaching the Bible and in training religious teachers. Some of the fundamental weaknesses of the present situation are disclosed especially in that the church colleges have given their largest attention to preparing teachers for public-school work instead of training those leaders who would solve the problems of the local church and community.

#### The Essentials of Religious Education. By

Charles W. Heathcote. Boston: Sherman, French & Co., 1916. Pp. 290. \$1.50.

So long as we think of religious education simply as instruction about religion its scope will be confined to knowledge, its activities to the Sunday school, and its materials to the Scriptures. Except in the sketchy historical survey

this is the point of view of this treatment of some of the elements of religious education. It would be helpful to any church-school teacher, for it gathers up much sound advice; but it hardly justifies the breadth of its title.

**The Psalms and Other Sacred Writings.** ("Biblical Introduction Series"). By F. C. Eiselen. New York: Methodist Book Concern, 1918. Pp. 348. \$1.75.

This is the third of a series of four volumes, the first of which has already appeared (see *Biblical World*, L, 49). Like its predecessor this volume is well adapted to the purpose for which it was written. It is what it claims to be, "a scholarly, nontechnical introduction" to the books with which it deals. It covers the Psalter, Proverbs, Job, Canticles, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther, Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Chronicles. It does not, like some too concise introductions, exasperate the reader by a dogmatic statement of opinion, unaccompanied by any sufficient presentation of data in support of the opinion. The grounds for a decision are as fully presented as they can be within reasonable limits and for the nontechnical reader. The spirit of the book is thoroughly historical. Its evident purpose is to let the facts speak for themselves and to accept their testimony unreservedly. It is a most encouraging sign of progress to receive such a book from the press of a denominational publishing house. Publications of this type will aid greatly in producing an intelligent church, one of the supreme needs of this needy age.

Anyone who wishes a very brief account of Palestine in the New Testament times will find *The Cradle of Christianity* by S. P. T. Prideaux (New York: E. P. Dutton, \$1.50) a very valuable aid. The book deals with important matters, such as "The Messianic Hope," "Hellenism and the Dispersion," "Apocalyptic Literature," and "Jewish Parties." The volume is of especial value in that, brief as it is, it makes constant reference to the original sources.

After forty years of faithful service *Philochristus* (New York: Macmillan, \$1.75) has been republished. It is reissued without change and is too well known to need comment.

**Essays in Orthodoxy.** By Oliver Chase Quick. London: Macmillan, 1916. Pp. xliii+310. \$2.00.

It is hard pulling against wind and tide, and the able author of these *Essays in Orthodoxy*—the chaplain to the Archbishop of Canterbury

—is well aware that he has chosen a task little favored by the current of popular interest. He seeks "to restore to living activity the theological and dogmatic tradition of the Catholic Church." Speaking of the religious needs of the plain man of our day, he contends—with some justice—that what we need is not less theology, but a great deal more. He considers, also, that the first necessity is not to restate the creeds but to explain them.

Accordingly in a series of nine essays he discusses the doctrine of the persons of the Trinity, with excellent temper and with considerable sympathy for the modern point of view. His aim is not so much apologetic as it is to reach a clearer conception of the meaning and application to life of the ancient creedal affirmations. It may be doubted how far he will be successful in finding a hearing. We of today are so preoccupied with other lines of thought that we have not too much patience either for his matter or his method. Religion as dogma has had the center of the stage for well over a thousand years. Perhaps the reaction is as wholesome as it is inevitable that for a little while religion as life should crowd it quite out of the foreground into the shadow.

**The Highway of Life and Other Sermons.** By Hugh T. Kerr. New York: Revell, 1917. Pp. 186. \$1.00.

The Committee on Men's Work of the Shadyside Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh is responsible for the publication of this volume of sermons by its pastor. Dr. Kerr is a stimulating preacher. These fourteen sermons have interesting titles and are full of timely truth. The war is frequently reflected in them. "Life at Its Best" is on the same text as the familiar sermon by Brooks entitled "The Wings of the Seraphim," and has the same three divisions. In such a situation comparisons are inevitable, and we found ourselves turning to the older discourse. After reading the two we missed in the more recent volume that note of distinction which has made the sermon by Brooks a permanent piece in the literature of preaching. An interesting treatment of a familiar text is in the sermon entitled "The Greatest Gift in the World," on John 3:16. Dr. Kerr says, "During the week that has gone I have been going over scores of sermons which the major and minor prophets of the Christian church have preached during the centuries the church has had this treasure in her possession, wondering if I could discover some suggestion that would make these familiar words live again in our hearts." Now "scores" is a large word; it means forty at a minimum; and to search forty sermons is surely some labor. Perhaps Dr. Kerr used "The Great Texts of the Bible," where the divisions that he selects

may be found on page 187 of the volume on John. He credits the suggestion to Maclaren (whose name he furnishes with a capital *L*) and uses it well. A fine example of honest work.

**The New Country Church Building.** By Edmund de Schweinitz Brunner. New York: Missionary Education Movement, 1917. Pp. xvi+141. \$0.75.

Among recent developments in ecclesiastical theory and administration the new attention being paid to the country church is significant. The problem of the "downtown" city institution was somewhat overstressed; the church of the countryside is coming to its own. This low-priced volume contains sensible principles based on careful study, is furnished with excellent illustrations, and is the best book at hand for its purpose.

**The Challenge of St. Louis.** By George B. Mangold. New York: Missionary Education Movement, 1917. Pp. 271. \$0.60.

Of primary interest to the people of St. Louis and designed as a textbook for local study classes, this comprehensive, thorough, and most interesting study of the city claims the attention of all students of sociology and philanthropic service. The book is well made, published at a remarkably low price, and is the first of a series which will render an essential service to all Christian workers.

**Ordered Liberty; or an Englishman's Belief in His Church.** By A. S. Duncan-Jones. New York: Longmans, 1917. Pp. viii+147. \$1.25.

This book is made up of the Hulsean Lectures, delivered before the University of Cambridge in 1916-17. The author is the perpetual curate of St. Mary the Virgin, Primrose Hill, and examining chaplain to the Bishop of Lincoln. As might be expected from title and author, the lectures are a plea for loyalty to the Church of England as an integral and genuine part of the Catholic church.

The recent rapid rise of inquiry—due to the war—as to whether the state church in England is maintaining its hold upon the masses of the people, and whether it fairly brings home to the average man the actual teaching and religion of Jesus, is bringing into being a number of eager arguments in her defense. It is perhaps natural that most of them should seem to American readers to appreciate imperfectly the strength of the reaction against a type of religion so largely sacerdotal and sacramental. To the writer of this book "the Church, with its